

Draft - Minutes of Meeting 27 October 1944

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INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ACQUISITION
OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

Minutes

Meeting of 27 October 1944

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PRESENT:

Office of War Information
Foreign Economic Administration
Navy Department
Library of Congress
Treasury Department
Department of Agriculture
Department of Commerce
Office of Strategic Services
Interdepartmental Committee

Dr. Krould
Mr. Riley
Comm; Riheldaffer
Mr. Clapp
Mr. Southworth
Miss Benton
Mr. Koop
Lt. Deston
Miss Kodadek
M/Sgt. Clift
Ensign Kilgour

Executive Secretary

Ensign Kilgour presided.

The minutes of the meeting of 29 September were approved as corrected.

The chair reported the death of Mr. Palmbaum, a temporary employee of the Interdepartmental Committee in Lisbon.

Special services rendered by the Asiatic Unit of the Analysis & Abstract Section to various government agencies were called to the attention of Committee members by the chair.

Since the office of the Interdepartmental Committee is becoming short of space the chair requested that the Library of Congress take over extra back file copies of the Subject Index. Mr. Clapp felt that this could be done but expressed a desire to have the same number of copies of each issue for Library of Congress files. Sgt. Clift said there was a shortage of some of the earlier issues and the members agreed to return any unused copies which they had.

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The chair quoted from a letter of 30 September from the Honorable G. Howland Shaw relative to the press reading services at the American Embassy at Moscow. The State Department representative was absent so discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

The chair read a letter of 21 October from Mr. E. Wilder Spaulding in reply to the chair's advice that IDC may wish to attach its civilian personnel in France to the American Embassy after France has become an inactive theater of war. There was a brief discussion of the matter but further discussion was deferred for a meeting at which the State Department representative would be present.

The chair advised that Mr. Polman of the Orientalia Division of the Library of Congress was anxious to have Indian material not considered to be of current intelligence value go directly to his section rather than to the War Agencies Collection.

The problem of indexing Russian material was raised by the chair. The Budget and Procedures Branch of OSS wishes IDC to take over the indexing work now being performed by the USSR Division. The type of indexing at present performed by USSR is not the same as that performed by the Analysis & Abstract Section on other areas. USSR indexing work is directed to the needs of OSS alone. The question was discussed and members agreed that while OSS should continue to receive the same service on Russia that has been provided by the USSR indexing section

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IDC could not take over the work unless the scope of coverage was broadened to include the needs of other agencies as well. Mr. Clapp moved that "the chair advise the Budget & Procedures Office of OSS that the Committee will be glad to take over the function if it can secure the additional personnel in order to do an IDC job." Dr. Krould seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The chair announced that the IDC budget for the fiscal year 1946 must be prepared on the basis of four alternatives: (1) that the war will continue on both fronts in 1945-6; (2) that hostilities will cease in Europe; (3) that hostilities will cease in the Far East; (4) that hostilities will cease on both fronts. The Committee agreed after some discussion that the determining factor in alternatives (2), (3), and (4) must be restoration of commercial communications rather than the cessation of hostilities and that for (1) the budget should be prepared to continue current operations.

The chair announced that inasmuch as he would be away from Washington Sgt. Clift would preside at the next meeting.

Colonel Hale asked if there was any intention of transferring the present American Publications Service work in Chungking out of IDC. Ensign Kilgour said that no change was contemplated other than providing a successor for George Kates but that the successor, probably Mr. William Allanson, would perform exactly the same work as Mr. Kates. He further advised that a Major Nordbeck was being processed for the IDC/PETO Chief in New Delhi as well as a Mr. Robert Crane and

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and Miss Anna Martih for IDC work in New Delhi.

The chair complimented the American Embassy in Lisbon for the excellent cooperation it has given IDC. He also mentioned the excellent Japanese material coming in from the American Military Mission at Moscow.

Mr. Clapp advised that the publications from Bermuda were now being unpacked in the Library of Congress.

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